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Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-10, 12-15, and 17-30 are now in the application.

Claims 1, 10, and 23 have been amended. Claims 11 and 16 have been cancelled. Claims 28-30 have been added, support for which can be found on page 11, lines 1-9. No new matter has been added.

In item 1 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, the drawings have been objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a).

More specifically, the Examiner has stated that the at least one body being one of spiral shaped, coiled and reel-shaped of claim 16 must be shown. The Examiner also stated that the electromagnetic radiation propagating inside the light guiding body on a coiled path of claim 11 must be shown. Claims 11 and 16 have been cancelled from the application so as to facilitate prosecution of the application.

The Examiner stated that the helical path of claim 10 must be shown. Claim 10 has been amended so as to facilitate prosecution of the application, and the limitation of the helical path has been deleted. Therefore, the objections to the drawings by the Examiner have been overcome.

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In item 2 on page 2 of the Office action, claim 16 has been objected to because of the following informalities.

More specifically, the Examiner stated that in claim 16, the phrase "said at least one body one of spiral shaped" is worded incorrectly. As noted above, claim 16 has been cancelled so as to facilitate prosecution of the application. Therefore, the objection to claim 16 by the Examiner is now moot.

It is accordingly believed that the specification and the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. Should the Examiner find any further objectionable items, counsel would appreciate a telephone call during which the matter may be resolved. The above-noted changes to the claims are provided solely for cosmetic or clarificatory reasons. The changes are not provided for overcoming the prior art nor for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

In item 4 on page 3 of the Office action, claims 1-3, 12-15, 17-20, and 23-25 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Seiler et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,804,817) (hereinafter "Seiler") under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

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The rejection has been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. The claims are patentable for the reasons set forth below. Support for the changes is found on page 10, line 21 through page 11, line 8 of the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 1 and 23 call for, *inter alia*:

at least one deposit control device connected to the detector for controlling the deposits at the surface, the at least one deposit control device controlling the deposits in dependence on the signals generated by the at least one detector.

The Seiler reference discloses a device for detecting the degree of wetting and/or contamination of windows.

The reference does not show at least one deposit control device connected to the detector for controlling the deposits at the surface, the at least one deposit control device controlling the deposits in dependence on the signals generated by the at least one detector, as recited in claims 1 and 23 of the instant application.

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Since claims 1 and 23 are believed to be allowable, dependent claims 2-3, 12-15, 17-20, and 24-25 are believed to be allowable as well. In addition, the features of new claims 28-30 are even more clearly not shown by the reference, as will be more fully discussed below.

In item 5 on page 4 of the Office action, claims 1, 11, 16, and 23 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Tsnuoda (U.S. Patent No. 4,159,420) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

The Tsnuoda reference discloses an apparatus for detecting the outflow of a liquid such as petroleum from a storage tank or pipeline.

The reference does not show at least one deposit control device connected to the detector for controlling the deposits at the surface, the at least one deposit control device controlling the deposits in dependence on the signals generated by the at least one detector, as recited in claims 1 and 23 of the instant application.

In addition, the features of new claims 28-30 are even more clearly not shown by the reference, as will be more fully discussed below.

In item 6 on pages 4-5 of the Office action, claims 1, 7, and 10 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Brogardh (U.S. Patent No. 4,342,919) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

The Brogardh reference discloses a fiber optical measuring device for measuring physical parameters of a medium.

The reference does not show at least one deposit control device connected to the detector for controlling the deposits at the surface, the at least one deposit control device controlling the deposits in dependence on the signals generated by the at least one detector, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application.

Since claim 1 is believed to be allowable, dependent claims 7 and 10 are believed to be allowable as well. In addition, the features of new claims 28-30 are even more clearly not shown by the reference, as will be more fully discussed below.

In item 7 on page 5 of the Office action, claims 1, 20, 21, 23, 25, and 26 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Tanno et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,946,242) (hereinafter "Tanno") under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

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The Tanno reference discloses an optical part for light transmission, which can be used in motor vehicles, industrial machines, and washing machines.

The reference does not show at least one deposit control device connected to the detector for controlling the deposits at the surface, the at least one deposit control device controlling the deposits in dependence on the signals generated by the at least one detector, as recited in claims 1 and 23 of the instant application.

Since claims 1 and 23 are believed to be allowable, dependent claims 20, 21, 25, and 26 are believed to be allowable as well. In addition, the features of new claims 28-30 are even more clearly not shown by the reference, as will be more fully discussed below.

In item 8 on page 6 of the Office action, claims 1, 8, and 9 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Nelson (U.S. Patent No. 6,232,603) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

The Nelson reference discloses a device for detecting the presence of moisture on an outside surface of a windshield.

The reference does not show at least one deposit control device connected to the detector for controlling the deposits

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at the surface, the at least one deposit control device controlling the deposits in dependence on the signals generated by the at least one detector, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application.

Since claim 1 is believed to be allowable, dependent claims 8 and 9 are believed to be allowable as well. In addition, the features of new claims 28-30 are even more clearly not shown by the reference, as will be more fully discussed below.

In item 9 on page 7 of the Office action, claims 1 and 6 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Modlin et al.

(U.S. Patent No. 6,173,609) (hereinafter "Modlin") under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

The Modlin reference discloses an optical sensor for determining a liquid level.

The reference does not show at least one deposit control device connected to the detector for controlling the deposits at the surface, the at least one deposit control device controlling the deposits in dependence on the signals generated by the at least one detector, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application.

Since claim 1 is believed to be allowable, dependent claim 6 is believed to be allowable as well. In addition, the features of new claims 28-30 are even more clearly not shown by the reference, as will be more fully discussed below.

In item 10 on page 7 of the Office action, claims 1 and 7 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Coulling et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,084,519) (hereinafter "Coulling") under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

The Coulling reference discloses a multi function light sensor for a vehicle.

The reference does not show at least one deposit control device connected to the detector for controlling the deposits at the surface, the at least one deposit control device controlling the deposits in dependence on the signals generated by the at least one detector, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application.

Since claim 1 is believed to be allowable, dependent claim 7 is believed to be allowable as well. In addition, the features of new claims 28-30 are even more clearly not shown by the reference, as will be more fully discussed below.



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In item 12 on page 8 of the Office action, claims 4 and 5 have been rejected as being obvious over any one of Seiler (U.S. Patent No. 5,804,817) or Tsnuda (U.S. Patent No. 4,159,420) under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Since claim 1 is believed to be allowable, dependent claims 4 and 5 are believed to be allowable as well.

In item 13 on page 9 of the Office action, claims 22 and 27 have been rejected as being obvious over Tanno (U.S. Patent No. 4,946,242) under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Since claim 1 is believed to be allowable, dependent claims 22 and 27 are believed to be allowable as well.

Even though the claims are believed to be allowable, further discussion of new dependent claim 28-30 follows. According to claim 28 of the instant application, the deposit control device is an ion exchanger. None of the above-noted references disclose an ion exchanger for controlling deposits at a surface. According to claim 29 of the instant application, the deposit control device visually indicates that excessively thick deposits have occurred. None of the above-noted references disclose that the deposit control device visually indicates that excessively thick deposits have occurred. According to claim 30 of the instant application, the deposit control device acoustically indicates that excessively thick deposits have occurred. None of the above-

noted references disclose that the deposit control device acoustically indicates that excessively thick deposits have occurred.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1 or 23. Claims 1 and 23 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1 or 23, they are believed to be patentable as well.

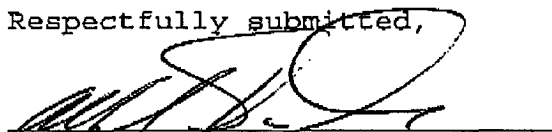
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-10, 12-15, and 17-30 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner & Greenberg P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

  
For Applicant(s)

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AKD:cgm

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